

together for very long," he said. "We hope that India's breakup will be peaceful like Czechoslovakia's, not violent like Yugoslavia's," Dr. Aulakh said. "Earlier this year, Montenegro, which is less than a million people, became a sovereign country and a member of the United Nations," he said. "Now it is the time for the Sikh Nation of Punjab, Khalistan to become independent. We must free Khalistan now."

TRIBUTE TO THE RIVERDALE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2007

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Riverdale Volunteer Fire Department in the borough of Riverdale, Morris County, New Jersey, a vibrant community I am proud to represent. On February 25, 2007, the good citizens of Riverdale will celebrate the Fire Department's 100th anniversary.

The Riverdale Volunteer Fire Department officially began as the Pompton Volunteer Fire Department on February 25, 1907. Twenty-three men from the village of Pompton, New Jersey, and vicinity met at Post's Mercantile Shop on the Hamburg-Paterson Turnpike on January 2, 1907, to begin organizing a local fire department. By the end of February, officers had been elected and the name Pompton Fire Department had been selected.

The Apparatus Committee first purchased three dozen pails and painted them red. Later in 1907, the department approved "no more than \$10" to build a two-wheeled truck to carry ladders. Located on the Hamburg-Paterson Turnpike, the first firehouse was on land now occupied by the Hale-DuBow Agency building. The village of Pompton became the borough of Riverdale in 1923, but the fire department retained its original name until 1958, when it was changed to the Riverdale Volunteer Fire Department. In the early 1960's the department united with most other borough organizations and moved to the town municipal building. The fire department moved to Post Lane in 1980 and has remained at that site.

The borough of Riverdale joined with nine other Morris County towns in September 1993 to form the Northeastern Morris Mutual Aid Association, NEMMA. NEMMA meets monthly to discuss firematic issues, trade information, and conduct training sessions. Every year one of the towns hosts a large-scale simulated disaster drill.

The borough of Riverdale has grown over the years and since 2000 has seen new multi-story condominiums, senior housing, and the completion of a large retail complex, all of which has strained the volunteer fire department. In addition to building and vehicle fires, the firefighters respond to medivac landings, flood evacuations, motor vehicle extractions, and hazmat incidents. Town government and citizen support has enabled the fire department to make necessary equipment purchases, complete additions and renovations to the firehouse, and development a length of service program to help recruit and retain members. For the first time in decades, membership is over 30 firefighters.

Madam Speaker, I urge you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the bor-

ough of Riverdale Volunteer Fire Department and all its firefighters, past and present, on the 100th anniversary of protecting one of New Jersey's finest municipalities.

TRIBUTE TO OREGON'S LAST WORLD WAR I VETERAN MR. HOWARD V. RAMSEY

HON. DARLENE HOOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2007

Ms. HOOLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Oregon's last World War I veteran, Mr. Howard V. Ramsey. On February 22, 2007, our country lost one of our bravest, one of our favorite sons.

Howard V. Ramsey was born in 1898 in Rico, Colorado. As a student at Washington High in Portland, Oregon, Mr. Ramsey enrolled in the Oregon Naval Militia. After a failed attempt to enroll in the United States Army because he was underweight, Mr. Ramsey's perseverance and dedication to serve showed true as he was accepted later that year.

Mr. Ramsey served as an Army corporal in France. Armed with the highly sought-after skill of driving, Mr. Ramsey was charged with providing transportation for officers, providing water for soldiers on the front lines and returning the bodies of soldiers killed in combat.

After completing his service, Mr. Ramsey returned to Portland, Oregon, around 1920 and worked for Hudson-Essex, which later became Hudson Motor Car Company. In 1922 he went to work for Western Electric, which later became AT&T, and retired in 1963 at the age of 65.

I join all Oregonians, and all Americans, in expressing my sincere condolences to the family of Howard V. Ramsey for their loss. Our state, and our nation, is greater because of Mr. Ramsey's presence and we are lessened by his passing.

It is a true honor and privilege to be here today to remember one of the last World War I veterans. Madam Speaker, our country is honored by his service and thankful for all that he gave to ensure our freedom.

"YOU ARE OUR HEROES"

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2007

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the fourth grade class at Redeemer Lutheran School in Pensacola, Florida, for their letters of appreciation to our nation's past and present servicemen and women.

Last week when I visited the school, the fourth grade class shared with me a letter project that they have been working on since the start of the school year. Their letters of thanks and admiration are sent to our men and women serving proudly overseas. I would like to take the time and share with you their heartfelt letter.

YOU ARE OUR HEROES

You are the men and women we honor today.

Our heroes are all of you—and we give you our thanks.

United we stand together!

Always on duty in protection of us.

Remembering the bravery of those who have served.

Everyone salutes and thanks you.

Our freedom is because of your sacrifices.

United States of America—you represent our best.

Respect and appreciation is what we have for you.

Helping us to live in a safer world.

Excellence, respect, and discipline is what you are.

Racing around the world to protect our freedom.

Overcoming fear, challenges, and being far from home.

Experiencing hardships to keep our country free.

Supporting you is our duty, and we offer our prayers for your safety.

Madam Speaker, I commend these young folks for their thoughtfulness and patriotism. I hope they continue to be shining examples and wish them all best.

COMMEMORATING THE 46TH ANNI- VERSARY OF THE PEACE CORPS

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2007

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Peace Corps on its 46th anniversary, and commend the agency and its volunteers on the invaluable contribution they have made in promoting America's interests and values around the world since the organization's founding in 1961.

Forty-six years ago, President Kennedy challenged Americans to "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country." His inspiring words launched the Peace Corps, which President Kennedy officially established by Executive order on March 1, 1961. The response to the President's call for this bold experiment was swift and enthusiastic, with the first volunteers accepting the challenge and leaving for their overseas assignments less than 6 months later.

Each successive generation has answered President Kennedy's call, expanding the Peace Corps' ranks and extending its reach every year. Since its inception, more than 187,000 Peace Corps volunteers have been invited by 139 host countries to work on issues ranging from HIV/AIDS education to information technology and environmental preservation.

This year, more than 7,700 volunteers have fulfilled President Kennedy's vision by living and working alongside people in 73 countries. Today's Peace Corps is more vital than ever, working on emerging and essential areas such as business, community, and youth development, and committing over 1,000 new volunteers as a part of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. Peace Corps Volunteers reach over 1.6 million young people every year, working on service-learning projects, teaching them the value of giving back to their own communities.

The Peace Corps has received such extraordinary success because its mission resonates with Americans and with the millions of